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INFORMAL MINUTES OF MEETING OF DIRECTOR AND CONSULTANTS, INTERDEPARTMENTAL FOREIGN INFORMATION ORGANIZATION HELD ON 1/29/51, IN THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, AT 2:30 P.M.

PRESENT:

Department of State

Mr. Barrett, Director
Mr. Oechsner, Acting Executive Secretary
Mr. Phillips
Mr. Hulten
Mrs. Curran
General Magruder
Admiral Stevens
General McClure
Mr. Sheppard
Mr. Berding

Department of Defense
Joint Chiefs of Staff
Department of the Army
National Security Resources Bd.
Economic Cooperation Adm.
Central Intelligence Agency

Mr. Harriman's Office

Mr. Lanigan

25X1A

Agenda item 1. [] reported on current discussions concerning organizational arrangements for intelligence support of psychological warfare activities of the government. He stated that it had been agreed in principle that CIA will place main reliance on the intelligence area of the Department of State in this field. Consideration is also being given to placing within the intelligence area of the Department of State responsibility for coordinating intelligence activities in this field among the several government departments and agencies. Following discussion, it was agreed that, pending decision of these matters, the Board would continue to look to [] as its CIA liaison officer to handle all intelligence requirements for the Board, and to keep the members apprised of existing intelligence materials which he believed to be of interest to them.

Mr. Barrett broached the matter of an intelligence estimate of current public attitudes in China, and it was agreed that [] would obtain a national estimate thereon. [] is to draw up for Mr. Barrett's approval a request for such an estimate.

[] reported that he and Mrs. Curran had made a preliminary study of the matter of a briefing room for the Board. Mr. Barrett requested them to continue this project with a view to making recommendations thereon.

Agenda item 2. General McClure reported on psychological warfare activities in Korea. He recommended that study be given to the possibility, for psychological warfare purposes, of spreading word among the Chinese soldiers in Korea of good treatment accorded Chinese prisoners by the US-UN;

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M. Hinner

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Mr. Barrett broached the matter of an intelligence estimate of current public attitudes in China, and it was agreed that [] would obtain a national estimate thereon. Mr. Norberg is to draw up for Mr. Barrett's approval a request for such an estimate.

25X1A

[] reported that he and Mrs. Curran had made a preliminary study of the matter of a briefing room for the Board. Mr. Barrett requested them to continue this project with a view to making recommendations thereon.

Agenda item 2. General McClure reported on psychological warfare activities in Korea. He recommended that study be given to the possibility, for psychological warfare purposes, of spreading word among the Chinese soldiers in Korea of good treatment accorded Chinese prisoners by the US-UN; he suggested that Chinese prisoners or deserters might be returned to the Chinese lines for this purpose.

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It was agreed to invite Mr. Connors to report at the next meeting of the Board on State Department information activities in Korea.

Agenda item 3. Mr. Gechsner reported that the IFIS working group on a National Psychological Warfare Plan for General War had submitted to the Executive Committee of IFIS two papers for consideration at its meeting of Thursday, February 1. Following this meeting, a report will be made to the Board.

Agenda item 4. Mr. Phillips reported that the Russia and China Plans were still in process of coordination, and that he was sending the Russia Plan to PRS for programming study; it was planned to downgrade the "Analysis of Soviet Vulnerability" portion of the Plan to "Restricted" in order to give it wider distribution as background for speakers, for example. He stated also that a Plan for Indo-China, with preliminary coordination, would be distributed to Board members within the next few days. Mr. Phillips reported on working group preparations for a possible CFM meeting.

Mr. Barrett gave details of some of the current thinking on how to handle, as a public relations matter, the "get the boys out of Korea" sentiment which has increasingly manifested itself in Presidential and congressional mail. He is to consult further with public relations officials of the White House and Department of Defense.

Mr. Barrett stated that a draft of a "Resolution of Friendship for the Russian People" had been prepared following Senator McMahon's proposals, and requested Admiral Stevens especially to give him his views on its appropriateness.

Mr. Hulten reported on progress of the "Sea-borne Radio Transmitters" project which was being worked on in collaboration with the Navy.

He also reported on progress being made in the field of small size, give-away radio receivers.

Mr. Barrett reported that the MIT report was due the first week in February.

Admiral Stevens requested that a project be requested; Mr. Barrett replied that such a report was in preparation, and it was agreed to place it on the Agenda of the next meeting. 25X1

Mr. Barrett informed the Board that Robert Sherwood had been requested to come to Washington to formulate a "Creed of Freedom" statement for possible issuance in a Presidential speech, and requested any ideas the Board members might have for inclusion in this statement of principles.

General McClure proposed study of a propaganda line to the Chinese Communist forces "Don't let Stalin push you into further losses", Chinese Communist losses already reportedly having been heavy. Mr. Barrett requested

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Mr. Oechsner to see that this was brought to the attention of the China Plan working group.

Mr. Oechsner reported that two sections of a three-section intelligence report on the Psychological Effect of Bombing of the Yalu River Dams in Korea had been received from the intelligence area of the Department of State and would be distributed as soon as the third section was available within the next few days. This report was requested following the IFIO meeting of January 2.

Mr. Barrett mentioned that a paper had been prepared in the P Area on "Combatting the Crisis of Confidence", but that he would not submit it at this meeting in view of the lateness of the hour but would place it on the Agenda of the next meeting, Monday, February 5.

P:ATCurran:FCOechsner:jl
1/31/51

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